Financial allocation for NREGA

1754. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMAA. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RORAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial allocations for the NREGA, year-wise, ever since the programme has been under implementation;

(b) the amount Government have been able to spend therefrom;

(c) the reasons for short spending;

(d) whether implementation of the programme in the existing districts has stabilized; and

(e) whether addition of 120 new districts under the programme is proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) During 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 2292.57 crores was released to the districts out of National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) budget since there was no separate budget of NREGA. During 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 11,300 crore has been allocated under NREGA out of which Rs. 7787.36 crore has been released to the districts upto 12th March 2007. The States have utilized Rs. 6016.11 crore during 2006-07 under NREGA.

(c) There is no short fall in expenditure *per se*. Moreover NREGA is a demand driven programme.

(d) Yes Sir. However, States have been requested to further strengthen NREGA systems and processes.

(e) Yes Sir. 130 additional districts are to be covered under NREGA in its second phase.

Payment of dues through banks/P.O. under EGS

†1755. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are opening accounts in the banks/post offices

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for all the people living below the poverty line, so that they can be paid their dues under the Employment Guarantee Scheme through banks and post offices;

(b) if so, the efforts made in this direction, till date, and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether two per cent commission is being demanded by the post offices for the same; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for its redressal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) (a) and (b) Payment of wages to the beneficiaries of the NREG Act is to be made by the States. Some States have made tie-up with banks and post offices for payment of wages to the beneficiaries through bank/post office accounts and some other are exploring such possibility.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter has been taken up with Department of Posts to waive of the service charge of 2%.

Decrease in the number of villages

†1756. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of villages in the country is decreasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the State-wise number of villages decreased;

(c) whether it is a fact that decrease in the number of villages has led to decrease in production of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, remedies before Government to deal with such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) According to the Census Data of the Registrar General of India, in the country, the number of villages including uninhabited were 6,34,321 in the year 1991

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.